

She was a mentor to so many—most notably her two loving daughters, Lauren and Courtney. I stand today to offer my sincerest condolences to her husband, Bill; her daughter, Lauren and her husband Ryan; her daughter Courtney and her husband Daniel; as well as her beloved grandson, Jackson—the inspiration for her two children's books published shortly before her passing. Mere words cannot express the sorrow we all feel at the loss of such an extraordinary woman.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 14, 2007, I attended an event in my district announcing a major economic development project and was absent for 3 votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 342, "yea" on rollcall 343, and "yea" on rollcall 344.

#### HONORING SONIA GUTIERREZ

#### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2007*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on May 18, 2007, the Latino and immigrant communities of the Greater Washington Region will gather to celebrate with Ms. Sonia Gutierrez her 35 years of selfless dedication to the larger community and to the Carlos Rosario International School.

Sonia Gutierrez was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico. She received a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and a Masters Degree in Adult Education specializing in Supervision and Administration of Adult Education Programs.

Ms. Gutierrez, is the CEO & Founder of the Carlos Rosario International Career Center and Public Charter School, and has spent 35 years as a principal, counselor, advocate, and organizer to more than 60,000 adult immigrant students.

Ms. Gutierrez began her career in the District of Columbia Public Schools in May 1972 as a counselor in the Program for English Instruction to Latin Americans (PEILA). There she began her mission: to provide holistic education to adult immigrants with little formal education in their native countries, enabling them to succeed by addressing their social and academic needs.

In October 1972, Ms. Gutierrez became the Director of PEILA and transformed the small, under-funded English as a Second Language (ESL) program into a comprehensive adult education program. In 1974, the Office of Right to Read of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare designated it as one of the best literacy programs in the Nation. As PEILA outgrew its facility, Ms. Gutierrez began a 2-year effort to secure a school building for the program. In 1978 she was successful in relocating the program to the old Gordon Junior High School in Georgetown; PEILA then merged with the old Americanization School with an initial enrollment of 800.

Sonia Gutierrez has made a tremendous impact on the Washington, DC region and on the field of adult education. She has had a direct impact on the lives of over 60,000 people in the last 35 years. Many thousands more have benefited as the adult education model she developed has proliferated across the globe. The students served by the Carlos Rosario International School have been given the chance to achieve their dreams because of her belief in them and their potential, and her passionate leadership of the school.

Ms. Gutierrez has triumphed over great adversity in leading the school to be the thriving model it is today. Today, it is arguably the most recognized school in the District of Columbia Public School System. Under her leadership it was recognized as a national model for adult education by the United States Department of Education. She has helped other schools replicate the model across the Nation as well as in Korea and Germany. When many adult schools were closed by the District of Columbia in 1996, she pushed on, ignored suggestions to retire, and reestablished the Carlos Rosario International School.

Sonia Gutierrez is a civil rights activist, a leader and visionary. She is a fierce defender and advocate for urban school systems and the families who attend them. Sonia has been a model of leadership. Her commitment to fairness, excellence, and compassion has inspired many to make a difference in this world.

It is for this perseverance, passion, visionary leadership, and the immeasurable impact on the lives touched by her work that we recognize Ms. Sonia Gutierrez' 35 years of service to the community.

#### BREAST CANCER ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

#### HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2007*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, as we return from Mother's Day weekend, I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act, and urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

This weekend we honored our mothers and grandmothers and the immense contributions they have made in our lives. As we celebrate these women, we should also take the opportunity to renew our focus and efforts on an issue that affects far too many women in the United States: breast cancer.

There are more than three million women currently living with breast cancer, and each year tens of thousands of women die from the disease. While we have made important progress in treatments and research, we still do not know what causes breast cancer or how to prevent it. And the alarming nature of these uncertainties is compounded by the fact breast cancer rates are on the rise. A woman in the United States has a 1 in 7 chance of developing invasive breast cancer in her lifetime—this risk was only 1 in 11 in 1975.

While it is generally believed the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, scientific evidence about the extent of its role is minimal. Studies have ex-

plored the effect of isolated environmental factors such as diet, pesticides and electromagnetic fields, but in most cases there is no conclusive evidence, and they cannot be translated into real ways in which women can better protect themselves.

The Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act will create a competitive, peer-reviewed research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment. Less than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors, and there are many understudied factors suspected to play a role that could be valuable in understanding the causes of breast cancer. H.R. 1157 will start a collaborative, comprehensive and national strategy to study these issues.

I proudly stand in support of the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act. I hope you will join me in cosponsoring this important, bipartisan investment in breast cancer research.

#### CONGRATULATING BROWARD COUNTY ANNUAL SENIOR HALL OF FAME HONOREES

#### HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2007*

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, today in Tamarac, Florida, 11 outstanding Broward elders will be honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame Breakfast. These 11 seniors being honored have volunteered in their communities and have contributed countless hours to helping others. Their outstanding character and compassion have truly set them apart. Those being honored are Dr. Kamala Anadam, Lucille D'Orso, Ron English, Elizabeth "Betty" Mate, Evelyn Miller, Pearl Monchek, Commissioner Allegra Webb Murphy, Sister Germana Sala, Charles Singer, Eleanor Sobel, and Willie Mae Williams.

Dr. Kamala Anadam of Weston, a former professor of Child Development in India, has been participating in the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Project since 1998. She personally coordinated the Project in her congregation, overseeing 22 volunteers and visiting frail homebound elderly in their homes. Dr. Anadam is a Member of the Fort Lauderdale Branch of America Association of University Women, a member of the Broward County Chapter of the United Nations of U.S.A., and a Member of the Advisory Committee of Senior Volunteer Services, Inc.

Lucille D'Orso of Lauderdale Lakes, a retired hairdresser, has been volunteering for the Foster Grandparents Program for over 32 years and has spent a majority of her time at several Broward County elementary schools, including Pinewood Elementary in North Lauderdale for 10 years, Northside Elementary in Fort Lauderdale for 15 years, Oriole Elementary in Lauderdale Lakes, and Larkdale Elementary in Fort Lauderdale.

Ron English of Fort Lauderdale has a passion for caring for the marginalized and less fortunate members of the community, leading to the creation of ground-breaking institutions such as AmFar (American Foundation for AIDS Research), the Sunshine Cathedral Foundation, and SunServe, the world's first